

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A print control method for a tandem  
printing system having a host unit which supplies  
print data to a plurality of printers which are  
connected by a tandem-connection, said print control  
10 method comprising the step of:

(a) controlling synchronous operations of the  
plurality of printers by a single tandem control  
unit which is operable independently of the host  
unit and is provided independently of the plurality  
15 of printers.

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2. The print control method as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) exchanging commands and/or status of the  
plurality of printers with the host unit by the  
tandem control unit.

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3. The print control method as claimed in  
30 claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) controlling the plurality of printers to  
carry out automatic loading of a continuous  
recording sheet in synchronism with each other by  
the tandem control unit.

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4. The print control method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(b) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of a continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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5. The print control method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(c) controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of a continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other by the tandem control unit.

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6. The print control method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

(d) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of the continuous recording sheet is made, with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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7. The print control method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(c) setting a non-printing transport mode in which no printing is carried out and only transport of a continuous recording sheet is made, with

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respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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8. A tandem printing system comprising:  
a plurality of printers connected by a tandem-connection and printing print data with respect to a  
10 continuous recording sheet;  
a host unit supplying the print data to the plurality of printers; and  
a single tandem control unit operable independently of the host unit and provided  
15 independently of the plurality of printers,  
said tandem control unit including means for controlling synchronous operations of the plurality of printers.

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9. The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further  
25 includes means for exchanging commands and/or status of the plurality of printers with the host unit.

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10. The tandem printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further includes means for controlling the plurality of printers to carry out automatic loading of the  
35 continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each other.

11. The tandem printing system as claimed  
in claim 8, wherein said tandem control unit further  
includes means for setting a non-printing transport  
mode in which no printing is carried out and only  
5 transport of the continuous recording sheet is made,  
with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary  
printers of the plurality of printers.

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12. The tandem printing system as claimed  
in claim 9, wherein said tandem control unit further  
includes means for controlling the plurality of  
15 printers to carry out automatic loading of the  
continuous recording sheet in synchronism with each  
other.

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13. The tandem printing system as claimed  
in claim 12, wherein said tandem control unit  
further includes means for setting a non-printing  
25 transport mode in which no printing is carried out  
and only transport of the continuous recording sheet  
is made, with respect to one or a plurality of  
arbitrary printers of the plurality of printers.

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14. The tandem printing system as claimed  
in claim 9, wherein said tandem control unit further  
35 includes means for setting a non-printing transport  
mode in which no printing is carried out and only  
transport of the continuous recording sheet is made,

with respect to one or a plurality of arbitrary  
printers of the plurality of printers.

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